



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/995,226	11/27/2001	Patrick P. Hicks	2070.004500/P6761	9652

7590

03/04/2003

B. Noel Kivlin
Meyertons Hood Kivlin Kowert & Goetzel P C
P O Box 398
Austin, TX 78767-0398

EXAMINER

ABRAMS, NEIL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 03/04/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/995226

Applicant(s)

Examiner

Group Art Unit

2839

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address —

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 1-27-03 (RCE and prelim amdt.)
- ☐ This action is FINAL.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 10, 11, 18-22, 26-35 is/are pending in the application.
- ☐ Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 10, 11, 18-22, 26 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement

Application Papers

- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____ ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☒ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892 ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 ☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

Art Unit: 2839

The request for continued examination (RCE) is acknowledged. A first action follows.

Claims 27-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

These claims recite "the first (and second) voltages" without antecedent basis.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-10, 11, 18-22 and 26-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heberling or Amberg, or Leman, any one taken in view of Broeksteeg.

Amberg, Lee, Provencher, Fox, HDM, Dent, Weber, Masuda, Siwinski and Chen 354.

See last office action.

Use of power and guide modules in main references obvious in view of HDM, Fox at J, J and Weber, fig 1A. Broeksteeg, HDM and Provencher also noted to teach use of ninety degree contacts. For claim 31 also obvious to use a shield in view of Broeksteeg at 180, figs. 12, 13.

Also obvious, for claim 33, to use a joinder module in view of Siwinski, fig 1 at 16, 136, 36 or to form the guide means (Weber at A', G') to also function as latch means in view of Chen at 34, 28 or to use Lee type latches 70, 32.

For all claims, also obvious to use Provencher, Broeksteeg, HDM ninety degree contacts connectors on both circuit boards.

and, for claim 18, etc., to use different voltages as in Dent, table 1.

Claims 26-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Broeksteeg in view of Weber, HDM, Fox, ~~Weber~~, Masuda and Dent.

Art Unit: 2839

Obvious to use Broeksteeg figs 1, 8 wafer holders on circuit board along with power and guide modules in view of HDM and Weber and Fox at 52, 52.


For claim 27-29, use of different voltages defines an obvious design changes and further is suggested by HDM, Weber, Masuda and Dent, applied as in last office action.

Applicant's arguments filed with the amendment have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The motivations for combinations seem clear for Amberg, etc. to join the circuit boards using pin-socket connectors, the contacts would have to be bent ninety degrees just as the Fox contacts basically define ninety degree arrangements. Use of Broeksteeg wafers would enable shielding to be used to lower cross talk. The motivation for using power and guide modules would be to provide system power and to guide the assemblies as they are joined. Joinder modules would be used to hold the assemblies in mated condition.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to N Abrams at telephone number (703) 308-1729.

N ABRAMS/pj

02/27/03


NEIL ABRAMS
EXAMINER
ART UNIT 322